

Contact Numbers for Division Public Affairs Coordinators and Dispatch Centers or TMCs

Northern Division

Redding
(530) 225-2715
Redding Dispatch Center
(530) 242-3210

Valley Division

Sacramento
(916) 464-2090
Sacramento TMC
(916) 859-7917

Golden Gate Division

Vallejo
(707) 648-4180
Golden Gate TMC
(510) 286-6923

Central Division

Fresno
(559) 277-7250
Central Valley TMC
(559) 445-6700

Southern Division

Glendale
(818) 240-8200
Los Angeles TMC
(323) 259-2050

Border Division

San Diego
(858) 650-3600
Border Communications Center
(858) 637-3853
Orange County TMC
(949) 559-7857

Coastal Division

San Luis Obispo
(805) 549-3261
San Luis Obispo Dispatch Center
(805) 593-3333

Inland Division

San Bernardino
(909) 806-2400
Inland Communications Center
(909) 388-8000

Headquarters

Office of Media Relations
(916) 657-7202

CHP Web site www.chp.ca.gov

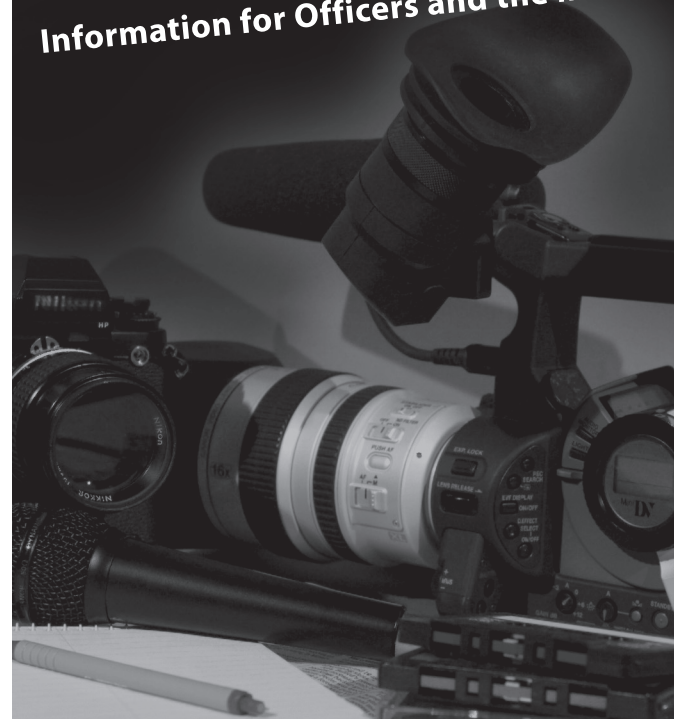
It contains press releases, reports and publications, as well as many pamphlets on traffic safety issues. The media may also access the text of state laws on the Web site under the Laws, Statutes and State Constitution section.



REVISED AND UPDATED

Media Guide

Information for Officers and the Media



This guide is intended to assist the media in getting timely information from the California Highway Patrol. It provides both the media and CHP officers with a basic outline of releasable information.



Information for Officers and the Media

This guide is intended to assist the media in getting timely information from the California Highway Patrol and provide both the media and CHP officers with a basic outline of releasable information. This is a reference guide only and is not intended to cover every situation.

Each of the CHP's Area offices in California has a Public Affairs Officer (PAO). Local information should be obtained from the Area office PAO in the jurisdiction where the incident occurred.

If media representatives need help in locating the correct Area office, contact the Public Affairs Coordinator in the Field Division Office serving that region or the Office of Media Relations at Headquarters.

For general information about the CHP, its policies, procedures, history, statistical data or issues that encompass multiple areas, contact the Public Affairs Coordinator at the Field Division Office or the Office of Media Relations at Headquarters. The telephone numbers for Division Public Affairs Coordinators and the Office of Media Relations at Headquarters are listed in this pamphlet.

Our enhanced Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) Traffic Incident Information Page at <http://cad.chp.ca.gov> provides the media with frequently updated statewide information on traffic collisions, road hazards and dangerous spills. It also gives the addresses and telephone numbers of all CHP Area offices and inspection facilities.

WHAT'S RELEASABLE AND WHAT'S NOT?

Releasable Information of Crime and Arrest Reports

The following information shall be provided to the media upon request, according to the California Public Records Act. Exceptions include circumstances in which release of information would endanger an investigation or a related investigation, or would endanger the safety of a person involved in the investigation: **[Government Code Section 6254(f)]**

1. Arrestee's full name (except juveniles)
2. Arrestee's occupation, physical description and date of birth
3. Victim's name (see Non-releasable Information for exceptions)
4. Time, date, location and circumstances of arrest
5. Pursuit or use of weapons by officers
6. Name of arresting/investigating officer and length of investigation unless disclosure would jeopardize personal safety
7. Limited description of evidence seized (i.e., handgun, not Smith & Wesson .38)
8. Time, date and location of booking
9. All charges, including warrants and probation or parole holds
10. Amount of bail, court schedule and time and manner of release

Releasable Collision Information

Collision reports shall be available only to collision victims, the involved insurance companies or those suffering bodily injury or property damage. **(Vehicle Code Section 20012)**

CHP practice is to provide to the media limited information at the time of the collision, using the CHP 288, "Report of Collision - News Release."

Information detailed on the CHP 288 is releasable if the collision victim is a juvenile. If a juvenile involved in a collision is also arrested (example, driving under the influence) neither the collision nor the arrest information is releasable.

Disclosure of Complaints or Requests for Assistance

Government Code Section 6254(f) provides for release of:

- Time, substance and location of all complaints or requests for assistance received by the [CHP]
- Time and nature of the response
- Information regarding crimes alleged or committed or any other incident investigated
- Time, date and location of occurrence
- Time and date of report
- Name and age of victim (See non-releasable information for exceptions.)
- Factual circumstances surrounding the crime or incident
- Injuries, property or weapons involved

When a juvenile has been in a traffic collision, his or her name, age, and hometown are releasable. If the youth has also been arrested (example, driving under the influence), neither arrest information nor collision information are releasable.

Releasable Information for Juveniles

Name and offense allegedly committed by a juvenile 14 years or older taken into custody for a serious felony – as defined in **Penal Code Section 1192.7(c)** – may be disclosed. **(Welfare and Institutions Code Section 827.5)**

Name, description and alleged violent felony [as defined by Penal Code Section 667.5(c)] of a minor may be released if an arrest warrant has been issued or if release of information would aid in apprehension or protection of public safety. **(Welfare and Institutions Code Section 827.6)**

Non-releasable Information

The following information is not releasable, according to Government Code Section 6254(f).

1. Name of a victim of any crime as defined by **Penal Code Section 220, 261, 264, 264.1, 273a, 273d, 273.5, 286, 288, 288a, 289, 442.6, 422.7, 422.75 or 646.9**
2. Identity of suspect prior to arrest
3. Investigative reports
4. Investigations of officer-involved shootings or other personnel actions
5. Confession or existence of a confession
6. Officer's opinion of a possible plea bargain
7. Any photographs or mug shots except those which:
 - aid an arrest or investigation
 - warn the public of danger
8. Identity, credibility or testimony of prospective witnesses
9. Officer's personal opinion as to strength of the case or suspect's guilt or innocence
10. BAC results

Access at Incident Scenes

409.5(a) of the Penal Code: [The CHP may close the area to the public if] "...a menace to the public health or safety is created by a calamity such as a flood, storm, fire, earthquake, explosion, accident or other disaster..."

In spite of the preceding section:

409.5(d) of the Penal Code: "Nothing in this section shall prevent a duly authorized representative of any news service... from entering the areas closed..."

Note: A safety hazard to the press does not justify restriction; however, it is CHP policy to warn the media of potential danger before allowing access.

Reasons for Denying Access to the Media

- Access would clearly interfere with emergency crews or equipment (Leiserson vs. San Diego).
- Site is a crime scene. If access is denied, the CHP has two obligations:

1. Restrict media only as long as there is clear interference
2. Provide a press area with maximum access possible under the circumstances

The CHP may provide escorted access to a pool reporter and cameraperson.